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**Claim Amendments:**

Cancel claims 7-8, and rewrite claims 1, 2, 6, and 9, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A composite polymeric material having high resistance to impact energy comprising pre-expanded beads of polypropylene polymer granules filled with air and uniformly dispersed in a ~~polymerized resinous matrix selected from the group consisting of melamine resin, phenolic resin, of an expanded~~ polyurethane resin and mixtures thereof, ~~wherein the polymerized resin matrix substantially fills the voids among the pre-expanded polypropylene beads, the polypropylene beads being pre-expanded prior to the polymerization of the resin matrix, the pre-expanded polypropylene beads being substantially positioned mutually adjacent to one another~~ that has been expanded and hardened about said pre-expanded polymer granules without causing melting or breakdown of said pre-expanded polymer granules that are filled with air.

2. (currently amended) The material according to claim 1 wherein the ~~resinous matrix is a~~ of an expanded polyurethane resin ~~obtained by~~ is a polycondensation of an isocyanate or polyisocyanate with a compound containing active hydrogen.

3. (original) The material according to claim 2, wherein the isocyanate or polyisocyanate and the active hydrogen containing compound have a polymerization time higher than 30 seconds.

4. (original) An impact-resistant manufactured article including a composite polymeric material having high resistance to impact energy according to claim 1.

5. (original) The impact-resistant manufactured article according to claim 4, wherein said article is an inner protective liner of a helmet.

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6. (currently amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein the pre-expanded ~~polypropylene beads~~ polymer granules have a substantially uniform distribution in said matrix.

7. (cancelled).

8. (cancelled).

9. (currently amended) The material according to claim 1, wherein the ~~polymerized resin matrix~~ of expanded polyurethane resin has a cellular structure with cells internally containing the pre-expanded ~~polypropylene beads~~ polymer granules.